

He said that after 30 years of trying to communicate the dangers of global warming, "I think that I'm finally getting a little better at it."

While reviewers tended to praise the book and movie, vocal skeptics of global warming protested almost immediately. Richard S. Lindzen, a climatologist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a member of the National Academy of Sciences, who has long expressed skepticism about dire climate predictions, accused Mr. Gore in *The Wall Street Journal* of "shrill alarmism."

Some of Mr. Gore's centrist detractors point to a report last month by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, a United Nations body that studies global warming. The panel went further than ever before in saying that humans were the main cause of the globe's warming since 1950, part of Mr. Gore's message that few scientists dispute. But it also portrayed climate change as a slow-motion process.

It estimated that the world's seas in this century would rise a maximum of 23 inches—down from earlier estimates. Mr. Gore, citing no particular time frame, envisions rises of up to 20 feet and depicts parts of New York, Florida and other heavily populated areas as sinking beneath the waves, implying, at least visually, that inundation is imminent.

Bjorn Lomborg, a statistician and political scientist in Denmark long skeptical of catastrophic global warming, said in a syndicated article that the panel, unlike Mr. Gore, had refrained from scaremongering. "Climate change is a real and serious problem" that calls for careful analysis and sound policy, Dr. Lomborg said. "The cacophony of screaming," he added, "does not help."

So too, a report last June by the National Academies seemed to contradict Mr. Gore's portrayal of recent temperatures as the highest in the past millennium. Instead, the report said, current highs appeared unrivaled since only 1600, the tail end of a temperature rise known as the medieval warm period.

Roy Spencer, a climatologist at the University of Alabama, Huntsville, said on a blog that Mr. Gore's film did "indeed do a pretty good job of presenting the most dire scenarios." But the June report, he added, shows "that all we really know is that we are warmer now than we were during the last 400 years."

Other critics have zeroed in on Mr. Gore's claim that the energy industry ran a "disinformation campaign" that produced false discord on global warming. The truth, he said, was that virtually all unbiased scientists agreed that humans were the main culprits.

But Benny J. Peiser, a social anthropologist in Britain who runs the Cambridge-Conference Network, or CCNet, an Internet newsletter on climate change and natural disasters, challenged the claim of scientific consensus with examples of pointed disagreement.

"Hardly a week goes by," Dr. Peiser said, "without a new research paper that questions part or even some basics of climate change theory," including some reports that offer alternatives to human activity for global warming.

Geologists have documented age upon age of climate swings, and some charge Mr. Gore with ignoring such rhythms.

"Nowhere does Mr. Gore tell his audience that all of the phenomena that he describes fall within the natural range of environmental change on our planet," Robert M. Carter, a marine geologist at James Cook University in Australia, said in a September blog. "Nor does he present any evidence that climate during the 20th century departed dis-

cernibly from its historical pattern of constant change."

In October, Dr. Easterbrook made similar points at the geological society meeting in Philadelphia. He hotly disputed Mr. Gore's claim that "our civilization has never experienced any environmental shift remotely similar to this" threatened change.

Nonsense, Dr. Easterbrook told the crowded session. He flashed a slide that showed temperature trends for the past 15,000 years. It highlighted 10 large swings, including the medieval warm period. These shifts, he said, were up to "20 times greater than the warming in the past century."

Getting personal, he mocked Mr. Gore's assertion that scientists agreed on global warming except those industry had corrupted. "I've never been paid a nickel by an oil company," Dr. Easterbrook told the group. "And I'm not a Republican."

Biologists, too, have gotten into the act. In January, Paul Reiter, an active skeptic of global warming's effects and director of the insects and infectious diseases unit of the Pasteur Institute in Paris, faulted Mr. Gore for his portrayal of global warming as spreading malaria.

"For 12 years, my colleagues and I have protested against the unsubstantiated claims," Dr. Reiter wrote in *The International Herald Tribune*. "We have done the studies and challenged the alarmists, but they continue to ignore the facts."

Michael Oppenheimer, a professor of geosciences and international affairs at Princeton who advised Mr. Gore on the book and movie, said that reasonable scientists disagreed on the malaria issue and other points that the critics had raised. In general, he said, Mr. Gore had distinguished himself for integrity.

"On balance, he did quite well—a credible and entertaining job on a difficult subject," Dr. Oppenheimer said. "For that, he deserves a lot of credit. If you rake him over the coals, you're going to find people who disagree. But in terms of the big picture, he got it right."

HONORING THE LIFE OF U.S.A.F. COL. FRANCIS R. "FRANK" CAPPELLETTI

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2007

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary life and accomplishments of U.S.A.F. Col. Francis R. "Frank" Cappelletti, a giant amongst men.

Col. Cappelletti was born in Koppel, Pennsylvania in 1918. He graduated from Laval University in Quebec City, Quebec before entering the Army Air Force in 1940. He completed navigation training with Pan American Airlines in Coral Gables, Florida in 1941. Thereafter, he was assigned to a B-17 outfit, the 19th Bomb Group. During World War II, Col. Cappelletti courageously flew 91 combat missions against the Japanese in the Pacific Theater of Operations. Later he served under General Curtis LeMay at the Strategic Air Command Headquarters.

Frank Cappelletti's flying prowess extended beyond combat missions. Before it was routine, the Colonel pioneered the flight pattern from Alaska to the North Pole. His continued service in the Air Force had him participating in the Cuban Missile Crisis, as well as the Vietnam War.

He retired as an Air Force Colonel after 30 years of service. During his extraordinary career he amassed several awards and honors, including the Distinguished Flying Cross with cluster, Silver Star with clusters, and Air Medal.

A humble man who never rested on his laurels, Col. Cappelletti continued serving his country and his community. After his retirement, Frank worked for the Defense Department civil service section for 11 years. He also volunteered for the Smithsonian Institution, translating documents from Russian into English. He was an active member of the Kiwanis Club, the Boys and Girls Club, the Military Officers Association of America, and of St. Joseph's Catholic Church in St. Petersburg Beach, Florida.

A tall, striking figure with movie star good looks, Colonel Cappelletti was an exemplary resident of my district and I am so proud to have served him, even for a short time. His devoted wife, Rose Cappelletti, took care of him to the very end as Alzheimer's disease gradually consumed him. In the final days of his extraordinary life, Mrs. Cappelletti provided him with a last glimpse of what she described as the "love of his life," a look at his beloved B-17 bomber as it toured a local airport. While the B-17 may be a close second, I know the real love of Colonel Cappelletti's life was Rose.

Madam Speaker, may the Colonel's life be a model to which we should all strive. May he rest in peace, and may his memory be eternal.

CALLING FOR RELEASE OF ISRAELI SOLDIERS HELD CAP- TIVE BY HAMAS AND HEZBOLLAH

SPEECH OF

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 13, 2007

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Resolution 107—a bill calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Israeli soldiers being held captive by Hamas and Hezbollah.

On July 12, 2006, Sergeant Udi Goldwasser and fellow soldier Eldad Regev were on patrol inside the Israeli border when their armored humvee was bombarded by Hezbollah rockets. Udi and Eldad were captured during this attack and have been held by Hezbollah militants for more than 8 months.

I tell this story because just over one month ago, I had the pleasure of welcoming Udi Goldwasser's wife, Karnit, to the United States Capitol. She told me about how hard it has been to live without "the love of her life" and how her dreams of raising a peaceful and loving family with Udi are now in jeopardy due to the cowardly acts of a terrorist organization that has said it will not rest until her country is destroyed.

Terrorist acts are not military actions between warring nations. They are despicable crimes that rob wives of husbands, husbands of wives and children of their parents. And as the leader of the free and democratic world, it is America's solemn duty to condemn such attacks whenever they occur and to support the justifiable actions of our ally Israel when it comes under heinous, premeditated attacks.

Today, I join Karnit Goldwasser in seeking to further the pursuit of liberty, democracy and peace throughout the world. And it is my sincere hope that Udi, Eldad and every other Israeli captive of Hamas and Hezbollah will be united with their families as soon as is humanly possible.

IN HONOR OF JOSEPH SIMUNOVICH

HON. ALBIO SIREs

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2007

Mr. SIREs. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Joseph Simunovich, who at the end of his 3-year term is being recognized for his service as chairman of the board of governors at Hackensack University Medical Center (HUMC). Mr. Simunovich has been the driving force behind the implementation of vital policy that has advanced the successful actions of HUMC, thus contributing to its prestigious reputation.

In addition, Mr. Simunovich currently serves as a member of the board of directors for United Water Resources, and as vice chairman for the board of Directors of United Water New Jersey—New York. In this position, Mr. Simunovich is responsible for setting public policy and strategic planning, focusing on external affairs and government relations. Since joining the company in 1992, Mr. Simunovich has been vice president, and senior vice president, as well as president and chief of staff of United Water Management and Services.

Active in governmental and civic associations, Mr. Simunovich was appointed by Governor Thomas Kean in 1986 as a member of the New Jersey Economic Development Authority (EDA). He was reappointed as vice chairman of the EDA by Governors James Florio and Christine Whitman for six consecutive terms, having, to date, the longest tenure in the organization's history. Mr. Simunovich also completed a 1-year assignment as a loaned executive to the Governor's Management Review Commission.

Joseph Simunovich's life in public service started even earlier. As a resident of West New York, he was elected to the Hudson County Board of Chosen Freeholders, where he served for 12 years. Mr. Simunovich was also appointed chairman of the New Jersey Turnpike Authority by Governor James E. McGreevey in 2002, where he led the integration of the Garden State Parkway into the Turnpike Authority.

Mr. Simunovich has been a member of numerous boards of directors including New Jersey City University, the New Brunswick Development Corporation, the National Association of Water Companies, and the National Council for Public Private Partnerships.

Please join me in honoring Joseph Simunovich for his guidance and service, and in congratulating him and his family.

PRESIDENTIAL RECORDS ACT AMENDMENTS OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 14, 2007

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, this legislation establishes a statutory process under which incumbent and former Presidents could, within specified time limits, review records prior to their release, and determine whether to personally assert constitutional privilege claims against release of the records.

This legislation is identical to legislation introduced in a prior Congress and approved by the Committee under the leadership of the gentleman from Indiana, Mr. BURTON.

During consideration of the bill before us, the Committee approved my amendment to close a loophole in the Presidential Records Act. Current law allows those individuals previously convicted of a crime relating to mishandling Archives records to continue to have special access to Presidential records. My amendment states that the Archivist shall not make available any original Presidential records to any individual claiming access as a designated representative under statute, if that individual has been convicted of a crime relating to the review, retention, removal, or destruction of Archives records.

As I noted in Committee, we should take the simple step of blocking access to original Presidential records if you've been convicted of crime related to Archives records.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND WORK OF GENERAL CASIMIR PULASKI, THE POLISH HERO OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the birth anniversary of General Casimir Pulaski, the Polish Hero of the Revolutionary War.

Often referred to as the father of American cavalry, Kazimierz Michal Wacław Wiktor Pulaski herbu Słupowron, more commonly referred to as General Casimir Pulaski, was born in 1746 in Winiary. Born into one of the most notable families in the region, he was sent away at a young age to be educated.

Working alongside his father Jozef in 1768, Pulaski co-founded the Bar Confederation, an insurrectionists group that aimed to limit the spread of Russian hegemony, a threat to Policy liberty and Catholicism, throughout the commonwealth. With the motto of "For Faith and Freedom," Pulaski participated in leading a confederation which fought for these goals. Pulaski gained renown during the battle of 1771 and went on to assert his leadership skills, military adroitness and valor in several battles before being exiled for a failed attempt to abduct the king. Although his efforts failed, Pulaski's leadership and courage inspired many.

In 1777 Pulaski traveled to the United States and met with General George Wash-

ington. Pulaski transformed soldiers into highly mobile forces, instituting the idea of a cavalry; soldiers who fought mounted on horseback. He would go on to lead several successful battles before sustaining a fatal gunshot wound in 1779.

Americans and Polish citizens alike have recognized Pulaski's heroism and commitment to freedom for centuries. He is honored, in both countries, in statue and in ceremony. In death, as in life, he remains a symbol of courage, commitment and friendship between Poland and the United States.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN GAINES

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2007

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, the community of El Segundo, located in my congressional district, sustained a genuine loss this week. John Gaines, a former member of the El Segundo City Council, highly influential community leader, and my dear friend, succumbed on Monday night following an inspirational battle against a rare form of cancer.

John was a terrific guy. Even as he struggled with his illness, John never lost heart, and continued to be a rock for his family and friends. When I last saw him only a few months ago, he told me his doctors had advised that he move up the date of his daughter's December wedding. In typical John Gaines fashion, he not only ignored their advice, he walked his daughter down the aisle.

He even joked with me that, having lost 100 pounds, he had become an adult sex symbol in his form-fitting blue jeans. This kind of levity in a time of extreme pain and uncertainty is a powerful testament to who John Gaines was: strong, compassionate, and charismatic.

Though it ended too soon, John led a full and accomplished life. A long-serving Naval Officer and Aviator, he attained the rank of Lieutenant Commander by the time he left military service in 1979.

Following his naval service, John returned to Southern California to start a distinguished career in the South Bay's booming aerospace industry. He quickly became an industry leader and worked at senior levels for some of the region's leading firms.

Ironically, it took the prodding of his son to get John into politics. But once elected, he was a natural and I believe John will be remembered most for his unwavering dedication to public service.

As a member of the El Segundo City Council, he made emergency preparedness, homeland security and community development priorities. During his tenure, John was instrumental in securing funds to better prepare El Segundo for any possible man-made or natural disasters. He also oversaw projects that helped to revitalize the city's downtown.

Over the years, John had a profound influence on so many people and literally helped change the face of his community. He and Assemblyman Mike Gordon, our mutual friend who died at age 47 of a brain tumor in 2005, are now local legend. John's wife, Susan, told me she is certain they are reunited.

My heart goes out to his wife Susan and their three children, Rebecca, Robert and Benjamin. Susan says the two boys are so much like their father. How fortunate!